

**Project Report: Delivery of Organic Materials to Planets**

The United Kingdom Astrobiology Forum (UKAF) is a body of the British National Space Center that helps to encourage and advise British scientists in the field of astrobiology. It runs the UK Astrobiology Network (UKAN), which any UK scientist can join.

The 4<sup>th</sup> year activities saw excellent developments in the science in the UK. UKAF expanded itself by four new members to give itself greater representation in different fields and to make it a more effective body at representing the various disciplines that fall under 'astrobiology'. It now has 10 members that cover disciplines from the origin of life to microbiology and more technology aspects of mission planning.

During this year membership of the UKAN rose by at least 15 members and now stands at just over 80 members. We expect this to continue to rise. In 2003, the UK astrobiology community will hold its first astrobiology conference at Girton College, Cambridge, where it will define new directions in astrobiological investigations in the UK.

Connections within the international community continue to develop well. By encouraging participation at relevant meetings, UKAF has provided impetus to UK scientists to become involved in astrobiology. The Forum continues to work within the UK through written articles and conferences that build up support for the science and therefore, it is hoped, funding as well.

Plans have been developed to begin a lecture course in astrobiology at the University of Cambridge. The Open University has a new planetary sciences course with a substantial astrobiology component and other universities are planning similar activities.

The last year has been a successful one with growing support for the science in the UK and active research efforts in many fields.

The web site at <http://www.astrobiology.rl.ac.uk> provides a list of scientists involved in astrobiology in the UK and their research interests.